



T.E.A.M. VOICE

Issue #2-2025

HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY



Mary and Joseph: The Great Love Story

We often view Mary as the mother of God and Joseph as her “spouse”. We get caught up in what they did and who they were apart from their marriage. We miss the great love story behind the holy family. Mary and Joseph had a beautiful relationship, although not perfect, that can teach all couples how to have a godly marriage. There are 4 things that stand out about their relationship which should demonstrate to us a lot about lasting marriages in a culture of separation and torn apart families.

1.) Mary and Joseph listened to the Lord: We see Mary’s obedience to the Lord in Luke 1:26-38 when the angel Gabriel comes to her and informs her she will be the mother of the Messiah. He tells her that she will give birth to the Savior and explains how she will do it. Her response, in verse 38, is *“Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord, may it be done to me according to your word.”* Mary listened to the Lord and the message from God before consulting with Joseph. She does not tell the angel that she must run home and ask Joseph what he thinks of this idea. The Blessed Mother places God’s will ahead of her own and even that of the opinion of others. She shows a total trust in God that His will for her life will be fulfilled. Her response reminds us to place the Lord first in our life and that includes above our spouse or children. When we place the Lord as the most important person in our life then He will handle all our other relationships.

We see in Joseph a man who has an open ear and open heart to God. Joseph is troubled by the news that his wife may have committed adultery and is now pregnant with someone else's child. In Matthew 1:18-25 we see where Joseph is contemplating divorcing Mary and ending their relationship due to his belief she had committed infidelity. While he is considering this act, an angel appears to him in a dream and tells him the child she is carrying is indeed the Messiah and that he is to take Mary into his home and be her husband. He is informed that the child he will be responsible for raising is the Lord. In verse 24 we see his response in that, *"When Joseph awoke, he did as the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took his wife into his home."*

There are many marriages today that could be saved and strengthened, despite hardships and mistakes, if both individuals would open their heart and listen to God's voice and God's instruction.

2.) Joseph protected his family: We see Joseph's faith once again lead him to listen to the Lord. In Matthew 2:13-15, we are given a picture of Joseph's commitment to do whatever it takes to protect his family. *"When they had departed, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, 'Rise, take the child and his mother, flee to Egypt, and stay there until I tell you. Herod is going to search for the child to destroy him.' Joseph rose and took the child and his mother by night and departed for Egypt. He stayed there until the death of Herod, that what the Lord had said through the prophet might be fulfilled, 'Out of Egypt I called my son.'"*

Joseph trusted the Lord enough to get up and relocate his family to a place that we have no indication he had any resources or family. Egypt was the traditional and primary place of refuge at that time for people fleeing from danger in Palestine. Joseph trusted the Lord enough to become refugees in a foreign land.

3.) Mary and Joseph raised their son in the faith: There are a few reasons we know that Mary and Joseph worked together to raise their son in the faith. We know that Mary was sinless and, as a result, we know that she would have obediently taught her son the law and ensured he was raised to adhere to the customs and laws of Judaism. We also know, according to St. Luke, that Jesus was immersed in the faith. Mary and Joseph went on their annual pilgrimage to Jerusalem for the Passover, and they took Jesus with them when he was 12-years old. After they celebrated the feast and were returning home, they realized Jesus was not with them. The lack of communication caused Christ to be left behind for three days. The couple raced back to Jerusalem to find their child. In Luke 2:46-52 we see, *"After three days, they found him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions, and all who heard him were astonished, and his mother said to him, 'Son, why have you done this to us? Your father and I have been looking for you with great anxiety'. And he said to them, 'Why were you looking for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?'" But they did not understand what he said to them. He went*

down with them and came to Nazareth and was obedient to them; and his mother kept all these things in her heart.”

We know Jesus was God incarnate and is the second person of the Holy Trinity. He is the Son of God and God made man. As a result, we know Christ did not have to be in the temple to know the faith. He did not have to ask teachers of the law their interpretation or what it meant because he was God. He did, however, set the example and do as he instructs us to do and that is to grow in wisdom and knowledge of the faith. He learned that from Mary and Joseph’s presentation of him in the temple all the way throughout his childhood by the example they set for him.

4.) Joseph provided for his family: Sacred Scripture tells us Joseph was a carpenter. We know, according to scripture, that Joseph was a hard worker. As a carpenter, he would have worked long hours, with his hands, and it was difficult work. He was a man committed to providing for his family by hard work and sacrifice. As a result of his dedication and work ethic, we see in Sacred Scripture where he would have taught Jesus how to work with his hands and how to be a carpenter. St. Mark tells us this: *“Is he not the carpenter, the Son of Mary, and the brother of James and Joses and Judas and Simon? Are we not his sisters here with us?” And they took offense at him.” (Mark 6:3)*

The primary thing we are reminded of by Mary and Joseph is that love is not based on feelings. Love is not rooted in emotions. Love, true love, is grounded in commitment and faith. It grows in the fertile soil of faith, trust, and hard work.

If you truly want to grow in your marriage, then it would benefit you to take heed to the lessons learned by one of Scripture’s greatest couples.

<https://www.catholic365.com/article/25934/mary-and-joseph-the-great-love-story.html>

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“Salvation? Well, ‘course it does. Doesn’t it, Irene? I mean, isn’t that what any church is about? You get together, sing, worship, help people, learn how to be a better person, and that makes you one of the good guys.”

These lines are from a book I’m reading, a prequel to the Left Behind series. Rayford believes he is good to go because he attends church sometimes and is not a “bad guy”. His wife, through a friend, learns differently. Learns what being born again truly means and realizes her church is not getting into the nitty gritty of God’s Word. I can empathize with

Rayford here, I too once thought just because I wasn't too much of a "bad guy" I was ok in The Lord's eyes.

Sad to say there are a lot of people out there like this. Sitting in the pews but just taking up space and fooling themselves. Plus, a lot of churches like this, not teaching directly or referencing scriptures. There are even churches where you won't find a Bible, Robin and I unknowingly dropped into one down in Florida. They thought they had no need to provide Bibles for the congregants so didn't even have one to offer when we asked.

Proverbs 30:5-6 (NIV) - Every word of God is pure; He is a shield to those who put their trust in Him. Do not add to His words, Lest He rebuke you, and you be found a liar.

2 Timothy 3:16 (AMP) – All scripture is God-breathed (given by divine inspiration) and is profitable for instruction, for conviction (of sin), for correction (of error and restoration to obedience), for training in righteousness (learning to live in conformity to God's will, both publicly and privately – behaving honorably with personal integrity and moral courage); so that the man of God may be complete and proficient, outfitted and thoroughly equipped for every good work.

Revelation 3:15-17 (NASB) – 'I know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot; I wish that you were cold or hot. So, because you are lukewarm, and neither hot nor cold, I will spit you out of My mouth, . Because you say, "I am rich, and have become wealthy, and have need of nothing." And you do not know that you are wretched and miserable and poor and blind and naked.'

Jesus/Yeshua says that we must be born again. That means we are willing to change our way of living. We say to God. "I am a sinner and I'm sorry". It's simple and childlike. Then by faith we receive Jesus Christ for what He said He was. We are willing to follow Him in a new life of obedience. In which the Holy Spirit helps us as we study the Bible.

Abba Father, we thank You continuously for Your word, and we pray that those of us who are already born again have gained enough understanding to know not to just pull out parts of phrases to make us feel good but rather to take the whole word, the whole Bible and to believe YOUR word. I pray that we all understand that when You say forever; forever it is! We pray for more understanding of Your word and to let it sink into our hearts, minds and souls so that we can truly "hear" when you speak and know what You would ask of us.

In Your Holy name, we pray, Amen rt and gt (NY)

EDITORS NOTE

I think Valentine's Day can be summed up by these scriptures:

1 Corinthians 13:4-7 (NIV) "Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. ⁵ It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. ⁶ Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. ⁷ It always protects, always trusts,

always hopes, always perseveres." When I think of all the things Tom listens to me go on and on about it amazes me. I always have something to say about everything. He patiently listens and says "I love hearing you." **That is true LOVE.** We have been together long enough that we hear each other's thoughts. When my mom was sick he went to every hospital and emergency room visit and never complained. Throughout all my work days he just listens to all my stories about this person and that person. But my favorite thing is when we sit on the couch together surrounded by our puppies and all watch tv. Love is all the little things that we don't really think about. Those are the moments that bring true joy. Thank you God for the things I forget to thank you for. LOVE YOU HUSBAND!!



UPCOMING EVENTS

"Heavenly Home" (Mat 24:16-18) is the title for the 2025 Spring Kickoff **on June 13-15, 2025** in Dayton, Ohio sponsored by the Dayton Believers T.E.A.M. Matthew 24 says He will shorten the days so His elect can make it through the days of tribulations. He is coming to us to call us to His side as He takes back earth. Not to take us away. This is our land, never to lose it to anyone, not Satan or anyone. He has already been defeated. More info to follow

Why are people worried. Smile, we already won, it's all ours. When He returns, our loved ones will come with Him to us. Don't let Satan and doubters take you from His Word. SL (Ohio)

Tentative Schedule for Spring Kickoff

Friday – Dinner

Saturday – Breakfast/Message

Air Force Museum/Workshops

Lunch Own

Saturday Dinner – (Old Country Buffet) Awards

Sunday – Breakfast

Dinners will be on individual, breakfast at hotel

MJM OPERATING ACCOUNT – SEPTEMBER 2024 ENDING BALANCE \$ 11,878.34

SEPTEMBER 2024 THROUGH DECEMBER 2024 DEPOSITS

DUES	335.00	
DONATIONS	195.00	
BANK TRANSFER FEE	.50	\$529.50

SEPTEMBER 2024 THROUGH DECEMBER 2024 EXPENSES

CORRESPONDENCE	131.61	
MEMBERSHIP SECT	364.39	
2025 FL BIKE WEEK	700.00	\$ 1,181.22

DECEMBER 2024 ENDING BALANCE * \$11,226.62**

***** 2,374.68 GOODIES *****
8,851.94 MJM OPERATING

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MJM LIFETIME SAVINGS ACCOUNT - SEPTEMBER 2024

	ENDING BALANCE
\$8,311.30	

SEPTEMBER 2024 THROUGH DECEMBER 2024

INTEREST	\$.21	
SEPTEMBER 2024 ENDING		
BALANCE		\$8,311.51

Please let me know if you would like me to send you copies of the excel check journals.

February 2025 Voice Newsletter Report

February 1, 2025

Years of Service for January

Cynthia	Laemmerhirt	11
John	Klein	11

February Birthdays

John	Platchek	2/6
Robin	Bocock	2/13
Rev. Curtis	Bier	2/16
Billy	Rose	2/18
Amber	Beckman	2/22
Karl	Wardlaw	2/24
William	Link	2/26

February Anniversaries

John and Rita	Young	2/11
Steven	Modricker	2/14
Fiona	Wehmeyer	2/14

New members for January

None to Report

God Bless

Respectfully Submitted By:

Michael Fields

National Membership Secretary

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Hello everyone. Please submit any articles, stories, testimonies, praises, poems, pictures, favorite verses, thoughts, or ideas you would like to see or have published in the MJM T.E.A.M. Voice newsletter to amber_beckman@hotmail.com or text 614-598-0682. Thank you, Amber Beckman

This newsletter can be reprinted to use at MJM events.

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Thank you Billie Cole
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